by conducting enforcement raids on regular basis as per the provisions of the BIS Act and rules and regulations framed thereunder. During the current financial year 2006-07 (upto 31/01/07), 136 raids were conducted by BIS to check the misuse of ISI mark. Upto 31-01-07, 163 cases have been launched for prosecution which includes the prosecution resulting out of the raids conducted during previous years also. In order to further strengthen the enforcement activity, two outside agencies have been appointed to gather information about the misuse of ISI Mark and also to help in conducting raids on such places.

Foodgrains to poor people in hilly/tribal/backward areas

1230. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any special programme and scheme for providing foodgrains to the poor living in hilly/tribal/backward areas of the country particularly in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of various schemes being implemented at present by Government in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has introduced the Village Grain Banks Scheme to provide safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamities in food scarce areas which cover people living in tribal areas, inaccessible hilly areas, drought prone areas and the hot and cold desert areas. Details of the scheme are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Apart from the Village Grain Banks Scheme, Government of India has been allocating foodgrains for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty Line (APL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System and various other following Welfare Schemes:

1. Mid day Meal, (administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development).

2. Wheat Based Nutrition Programme and Nutrition Programme for Adolescent girls (administered by Ministry of Woman and Child Development).

3. Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and Special Component of SGRY (administered by Ministry of Rural Development) and Annapurna Scheme.

Statement

Village Grain Banks Scheme

- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Grains Banks in Tribal villages was launched during 1996-97 by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 11 States. During 1996-97 to 2004-05 Ministry of Tribal Affairs released Rs. 10.26 crores for establishing 4858 Grain Banks. Now the scheme has been transferred to the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution.

- The revised Village Grain Bank Scheme for establishment of Grain Banks in chronically food scarce areas was approved by Ministry of Finance on 15.2.2006 for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 subject to its evaluation in the 11th Plan.

- The main objective of the scheme to provide safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamity or during lean season.

- The grain banks are to be set up in food scarce areas like the drought prone areas, the hot and cold desert areas, tribal areas and the inaccessible hilly areas.

- The revised scheme envisages inclusion of all willing BPL/AAY families in the villages which will be identified by the State Government in food deficit areas. The quantity to be lent and the period of repayment will be decided by the Group themselves. To ensure recovery of grains lent, it is proposed to tie up the scheme with the entitlement of the members under TPDS.

- Village Panchayat/Gram Sabha, Self Help Group or NGOs etc. identified by the State Government shall be eligible for running the

Grain Banks. Each such Executive Committee will have a Woman as its member.

- A provision of Rs. 20.20 crores was made for 2005-06 (Plan) by Planning Commission out of which an amount of Rs. 19.76 crores was sanctioned for the establishment for 3282 grain banks in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tripura and Meghalaya. A provision of Rs. 50.00 crores has been made for 2006-07 out of which Rs. 49.40 crores has been sanctioned for the establishment of 7832 Grain Banks in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra so far.

- The estimated cost of setting up one grain bank is as follows:

a)	Cost of foodgrains @ of 1 quintal per family per average 40 families per grain bank.	40 quintals of foodgrains at Rs. 1150.00 per quintal (based on the average present economic cost of grains) *i.e* Rs. 46,000/-
b)	Transportation cost @ Rs. 90/- per quintal.	90X40=Rs. 3,600/- (Rs. 1800 to be borne by the State Government)
c)	Training expenses for trainers and trainees.	Rs. 1400/- per bank.
d)	Storage weights and scales etc.	Rs. 6000/- per bank.
e)	Monitoring and Administrative Cost	Rs. 3000/- per bank.
	TOTAL	Rs. 60,000/- per bank.

Import of pulses and edible Oils

1231. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to import pulses and edible oils in view of price rise;